

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

29 JUN 1976

Mr. Norman Beckman, Acting Director  
Congressional Research Service  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Mr. Beckman:

Thank you for your letter of 28 May 1976 to the Director requesting CIA participation in the Library's proposed survey of Government information systems.

As you know, the primary function of the Central Intelligence Agency is to collect and analyze information on foreign developments for Government policy-makers. Hence, many of our intelligence products may indicate trends, make forecasts, or identify emerging issues abroad. Normally this material is classified, and much of it must be protected from public disclosure because of the intelligence sources and methods involved. Therefore, information about these products could not be included in the Library's proposed directory of foresight-oriented information systems. As you may know, unclassified finished intelligence products are provided to the Library's Document and Expediting Project for public sale.

The Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies of the Intelligence Community now support the Congress in its need for information on foreign developments. CIA provides intelligence information daily to the committees directly involved with our national defense and foreign policy. Moreover, members of the Intelligence Community provide intelligence briefings on specific events to other committees on matters within their jurisdiction. This information includes our interpretation of trends, emerging issues, and potential conflicts of national significance.

I am sure you appreciate that because of the highly classified nature of the large majority of our products, we are not able to provide information to the Congress through the Library, or to make a meaningful contribution to the proposed directory. Let me reiterate, however, that existing mechanisms do provide the Congress the fruits of our intelligence programs.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

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